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RITICISM OF J. S. BACH BY A CONTEMPORARY. "He is really the most distinguished among the musicians. the clavier and on the organ; and at the present time he has only met with one [Handel] worthy of being named as a rival. Several times have I heard this great man play. His dexterity is astonishing, and one can hardly conceive how it is possible for him to draw in and stretch out his hands and feet in so exsingle wrong note, and, further, without, by such violent movements, disfiguring the body. This great man would be the wonder of all nations if he had a more pleasing style, and if he did not spoil his compositions by bombast

and intricacies, and by the excess of art hide their beauty. As he measures by his own fingers, his pieces are fearfully difficult to play, for he expects vocalists and instrumentalists to accomplish with their throats and instruments what he can do on the clavier. This, He is an extraordinary performer, both on however, is impossible. All ornaments, all small grace-notes, and everything which, by rule, musicians understand how to play, he writes out in full, and thus not only are his pieces deprived of the beauty of harmony, but it is totally impossible to distinguish the melody. All the parts are alike as regards difficulty, and no single one stands out as ceptional and nimble a manner, and also to principle part. In short, he is in music what make the widest leaps without striking a formely Herr von L-was in poetry. Bombast has drawn both away from the natural in art, from the sublime to the obscure. The heavy labor is admired, yet the exceptional trouble taken, being contrary to reason profits

CAMILLE SAINT-SAENS has called his new musical work "Parysatis," and, like "Les Barbares," it is to be sung first in the arena at Beziers. The text was written by a woman, Jane Dieulafov, and is the customary mythological material that nowadays appeals to the composer.

THE Wagnerian season of the Prince Regent of Munich will open between the 9th and 12th of September. There will be eight cycles with four representations of "Lohengrin," "Tannhauser," "Meistersingers" and "Tristan and Isolde." The principals of the company will be Nordica, Ternina, Mildenburg, Fritzi Scheff, Staudigl, Bosetti, Elise Breuer, Olive Fremstadt and Berta Morena; Messrs. G. Anthes, Bertram, Reichman, Bauberger, Feinhals, Fuchs, Geis, Knote, etc. The conductors are H. Zumpe, Fischer and Hugy Rohr. The manager is E. von Possart.

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AUGUST - SEPTEMBER, 1902

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HE TRAINING OF MUSIC TEACHERS. At the recent meeting of the Incorporated Society of Musicians, in London, Dr. Frederick G. Shinn gave an address on the training of music teachers, from which we make a few extracts:

Everything which helps to explain the material of music, which leads us to an intelligent understanding of the molding of musical ideas and their elaboration and development into the recognized forms of musical composition, must influence us in the interpretation of such forms To see clearly the various parts of a composition in their proper proportions, to understand their relation one to another and to the whole work, is to have taken the first step-by no means an unimportant one-toward securing what is required to give them a correct interpretation in performance. The study, however, from which we derive that special kind of assistance which helps us to understand the spirit of the works of great composers is Musical History, by which I do not mean that kind of knowledge which so often passes as musical history-a mere knowledge of names and dates and unsystematized facts bearing on the life and works of composers; but I mean, first of all, a wide and comprehensive knowledge of music of all schools and periods, a knowledge of the evolution of music, of the growth of the musical language, and of the gradual building up of musical forms, and the way in which these have been employed in different periods, and by different composers, for the expression of almost every variety of human emotion.

The average piano teacher, if he is to be in the following five decades.

really competent in a broad sense, must be a thoroughly trained and cultured musician; he must have had, musically speaking, a liberal education; he must have studied "the humanities" of his art. He may call himself a specialist, if he likes, but if thereby he means that he is specially good, either as a pianoteacher or as a teacher in any single department of musical knowledge, he must have founded his special studies on all-round musical education. He must be able to view them from a general standpoint, he must be able to see them in their relation to other studies, so as to neither overrate their relative importance nor to underrate the importance of other branches in which he may be less in sympathy or less proficient in teaching. Only when he can do this can he be said to fulfill the first condition of a really competent teacher, by possessing an adequate knowledge of the subject of instruction of that subject which he desires to impart to others.

Every individual teacher must, to a very large extent, frame his own method, and that method will inevitably be a reflection of his own mind, and of his peculiar way of looking at matters, and also, to some extent, a reflection of the minds and difficulties of his pupils. What we can aim at in the training of music teachers is that they shall possess such knowledge as shall enable them to frame a method on sound fundamental principles, both with reference to its connection, on the one hand, with the special class of knowledge to be imparted, and, on the other hand, with the peculiarities of the mind of the pupil. We can give them that knowledge to understand more fully than is generally understood to be the meaning of failure and success in teaching. and which will supply them with the reasons why their efforts in one case have been crowned with success, and in another with apparent failure. This kind of knowledge is to be acquired, and I have endeavored to indicate the direction in which it lies, and I contend that it should be acquired by all who enter the teaching profession.

THE five most important years in the history of music were 1809 to 1813. Chopin and Mendelssohn were born in 1809; Schumann and Felicien David in 1810; Liszt and Ambroise Thomas in 1811; Flotow in 1812: Wagner and Verdi in 1813. In these five years, more great musicians were born than

NATIONAL CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC.

Senator Mason, of Illinois, who is sponsor for the plan of a national conservatory of music, thus explains his project:

The bill which I introduced to establish a national conservatory of music and art has created a great deal of talk, and many articles have been written on the subject, some approving and others disapproving the plan laid out in the measure. My object in introducing it was to secure public discussion on the matter, with the hope at some time of interesting the Government in this most useful branch of education.

I am a firm believer in music as a humanizer and as one of the most important branches of education; and if it is a good thing for the classes it is a good thing for the masses. I taught school when a young man in several different places. I found the school and the neighborhood that had been educated by even having a singing master of the old-fashioned country singing school was always a much better neighborhood and a more refined and agreeable one than those communities which had never enjoyed the luxury of the oldfashioned singing school.

Vocal music is now regarded as a fixed necessity in our public schools and as one of the important branches of education. I could not advocate that the State, county or city municipalities should give time and money for the teaching of instrumental music when they have barely sufficient funds, and sometimes in our city not room enough in the public schools for the fundamental branches required in education, but I believe the Government could afford to show its interest in this great art with but very little, if any, expense. It would add to the interest of the people, and I think all the governments in the world that have directly or indirectly aided these schools of music and art have been greatly benefited thereby.

I have received many letters from wellknown music teachers all over the country, notably Professors Ziegfeld and Tomlins, of Chicago, both of whom will be called before the committee to give their opinions on the subject when the bill is reached for a hearing.

It may be that the committee will decide that it might interfere with well-established music schools and colleges already in operration, and that it would be in violation of the policy of the Government to compete with them. I believe, however, it would not have any such effect, but that the very fact that the Government was fostering the study of music and art would add interest to the subject and dignify the calling of those great workers, many of whom have devoted their lives to the cause of music.

I expect that there will be a hearing at the beginning of the next session. Meanwhile the people will be interested in the matter, and the committee will be better prepared to hear and determine what, if anything, the Government should do in this connection.

CARL BAERMANN, the well-known Boston pianist and teacher, who has been in Europe for the past few years, is to return to the full than 1 the past few years, is to return to the full than 1 the full than 1 the full than 2 t

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DWARD GRIEG: A MASTER OF THE MUSICAL LYRIC.

The place of Edward Grieg, the greatest of Norwegian composers, in the musical Pantheon has hardly as yet been determined. Perhaps, as is intimated by the more conservative musical critics, his name will never rank with those of the "great masters"; but few will deny that his work is peculiarly penetrative and strikingly original. "It is, of a truth, music in which merit and failing are curiously mingled," declares Mr. Daniel Gregory Mason; "its delicate beauty is unique, its limitations extreme. It is as fair as a flower, and as fragile."

Grieg is of the nervous, sensitive temperament-the temperament of Keats and Stevenson-quick and ardent in feeling, and in art notable for subjective, intimate work, rather than for the wide objective point of view. Grieg's music is of value, indeed, just because it is the artistic expression of delicate personal feeling. We shall find that his whole development tended toward a singularly individual, or at most national, utterance: that his efforts toward a complexer or more universal style, such as in poetry we call epic, were unsuccessful; and that his real and inimitable achievement is all in the domain of the pure lyric

It was Nordraak, a young Norwegian musician of magnetic personality, who first aroused Grieg's enthusiasm for the Norse folk-songs, and fired him with an ambition to found on them a finished art. The two men solemnly took an oath of musical allegiance to their fatherland. "It was as tho the scales fell from my eyes," writes Grieg; "for the first time I learned . . . to understand my own nature. We abjured the Gade-Mendelssohn insipid and diluted Scandinavianism, and bound ourselves with enthusiasm to the new path which the modern school is now following." The result of Grieg's efforts in his chosen field was romantic music-sonatas, songs, dances, "tone-pictures" -of an "indescribably delicate' nature. Says Mr. Mason:

"It is like the poetry of Mr. Henley in its exclusive concern with moods, with personal emotions of the subtlest, most elusive sort. It is intimate, suggestive, intangible. It voices the gentlest feelings of the heart, or summons up the airiest visions of the imagination. It is whimsical, too, changes its hues like the chameleon, and often surprises us with a sudden flight to some unexpected shade of expression. Again, its finesse is striking. The phrases are polished like gems, the melodies charm us with their perfect proportions, the cadences are as consummate as they are novel. Then, again, the rhythm is most delightfully frank and straightforward: there is no maundering or uncertainty, but always a vigorous dancing progress, as candid as childhood. It is hard to keep one's feet still through some of the Norwegian Dances. And tho in the Lyric Pieces rhythm is idealized, it is always definite and clear, so that they are at the opposite pole from all that formless sentimentality which abandons accent in order to wail. Again, one must notice the curious exotic flavor of this music, a flavor not Oriental but Northern, a half-wild, half-tender pathos, outlandish a little, but not turgid-on the contrary, perfectly pellucid."

There are, however, grave defects in Grieg's music, if Mr. Mason's judgment be accepted. No other composer, he remarks, has had so many "mannerisms," so many "little tricks a pipe-organ, is to be one of the features.

and idiosyncrasies"; and "nothing menaces thought more than affectations and whimsicalities of style." Moreover, Mr. Mason thinks that severely critical standards compel the admission that Grieg's personality was "graceful without strength, romantic without the sense of tragedy, highly gifted with all gentle qualities of nature, but lacking in the more virile powers, in broad vision, epic magnanimity, and massive force." He concludes: "When all is said, Grieg has in his early

works made a contribution to music which our

sense of his later shortcomings must not make

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of one indispensable element-the element of naive and spontaneous romance." A MUSIC-BUILDING is to be erected on Holmes Field, Cambridge, for the music

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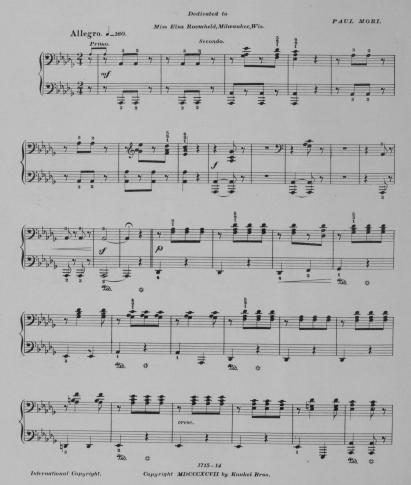
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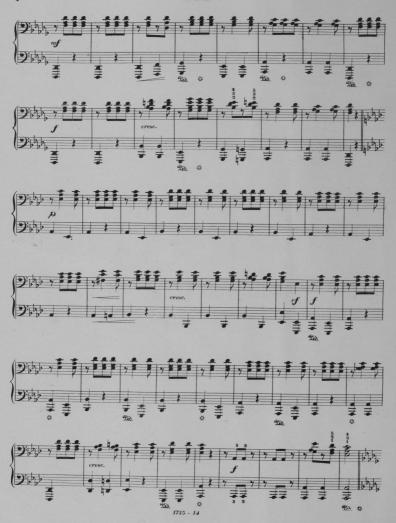
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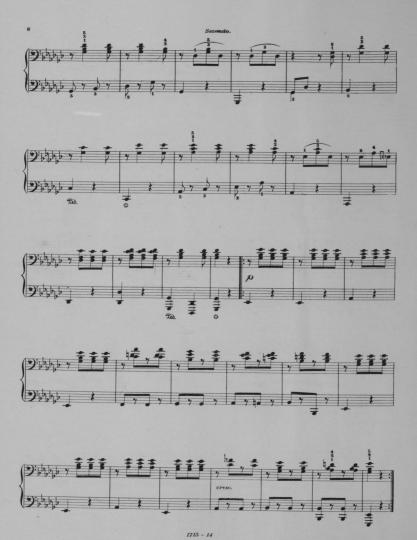


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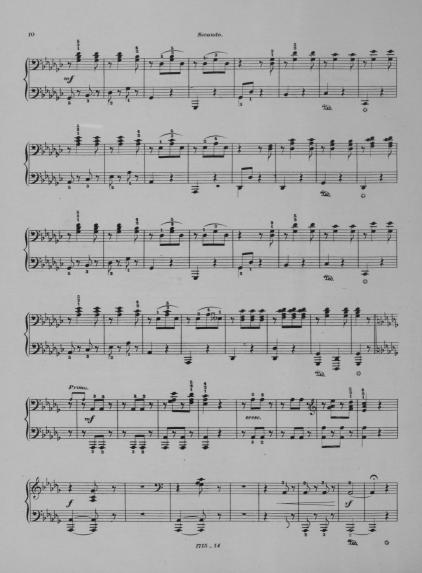


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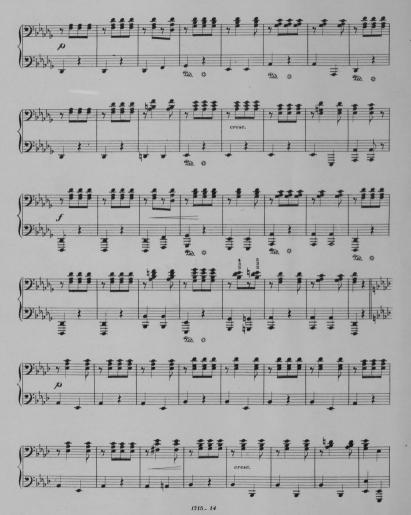


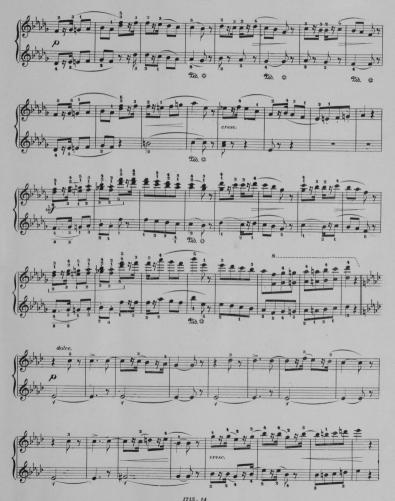




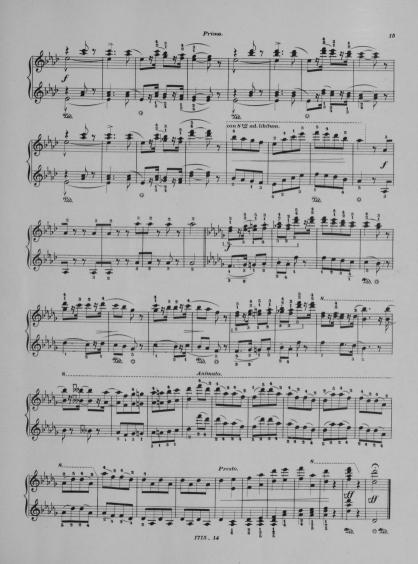












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ORODINE'S ACCOUNT OF As late as 1877, when Liszt was about sixty-six years of age, the Russian composer, Borodine, had the good luck of hearing him at a concert given in Jenna, where something of Liszt's was produced. After speaking of Liszt's conducting, he goes on about the playing.

'When it came to the numbers for pianoforte, he descended into the choir, and soon his gray head appeared behind the instrument. The powerful sustained tones of the piano rolled like waves through the Gothic vaults of that old temple. It was divine! What sonority, power, fullness! What a pianissimo, what a morendo! We were transported. When it came to Chopin's 'Funeral March,' it was evident that the piano part had not been written out. Liszt improvised at the piano while the organ and 'cello played from written parts. With each entrance of the theme it was something different; but its difficult to imagine what he made of it.

"The organ lingered pianissimo on the harmonies in the bars in thirds. The piano, with pedal, gave out the full harmonies, but pianissim the violoncello sang the theme. The effect was prodigious. It was like the distant sound of a funeral knell, that rings out again before the first vibration has quite died away. I have never heard anything like it. And what a crescendo! We were in the seventh heaven."

THE Opera Comique of Paris closed for the season June 30th. It is announced that in November, Calvé, who has not been heard in Paris for a long time, will make her reappearance in

an important role.

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WHAT is the startling news wafted across the ocean from the fatherland, asks an exchange? Two-thirds of Germany's 150,000 music teachers incompetent! And now a movement is under way, endorsed by the National Federation of Vocal Iand nstrumental Instructors, to ask the Reichstag to pass a law compelling the teachers to undergo a State examination. Truly an excellent pointer for associations in this country. Heavens knows there is need for some weeding out process.

Our German friends who advocate legislation claim that their country's fair name as a school of music is in danger of forfeiture through bad systems of training applied by numerous individuals in so-called conservatories. In this connection Herr Leonard Liebling, a Berlin critic, cays: "American students will take the liveliest interest in the proposed legislation, because they are the most numerous, and obliged to pay the most fancy prices for education. In Berlin alone they spend 3,000,000 marks a year for their lessons. Some of the instruction they receive is little less than criminal. A large percentage of the teachers not only fail to teach anything, but often spoil talent. Just now the American student colony is agitated by a typical case of two young Chicago women. A certain well-known singing professor told the ladies three or four times a day to shove miniature steel shafts in their throats to produce the desired tone and quality. Doctors now find that their vocal cords are severed and bleeding, and all chances of their voices being cultivated are gone."

Not a pleasant picture. But there have been, and we suppose will continue to be, "horrible examples" of incompetency. We have them here in abundance, and they can be all traced to the one source. Surely a remedy can be found. If legislation, such as proposed in Germany, is the panacea, then the sooner it is enacted in this country the better.

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